

## LESSON PLAN: Clay Houses

# the new children's museum

## OVERVIEW

### Inspired by:

Alison Pebworth's *Reconnecting to Home*, a four-story house in the Museum that features California architectural styles from different time periods. Students will create a unique miniature dwelling out of clay. This project can be connected to your class curriculum. Ask students to create a house for their favorite literary character or from a historical time period.

### Grades:

All Ages

### Duration:

30 minutes

## HOW-TO

### Materials:

- o Clay cut into 2-inch cubes
- o Rolling pins
- o Rags
- o Sponges + spray bottles
- o Aprons
- o Wire loop tools\*
- o Detail tools: toothpicks, craft sticks, skewers, etc.

*\*Paper clips can be used if wire loop tools aren't available.*



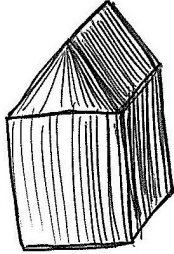
## STEPS

### Prep + Create Clay House:

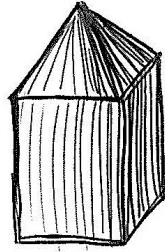
1. Introduce project and vocabulary: clay, carve, sculpture, 3-D, slip.
2. Pass out one cube of clay to each student – leave some extra clay at each table for adding details later.
3. Practice tapping the sides of the cube against the table to make them flat – this will help build technique for the next step!

4. Create the shape of the roof from the top of the cubes by...

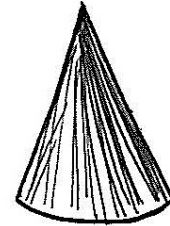
**Tapping two edges**



**Tapping four edges**



**Rolling four edges**



5. Use wire loop tools to hollow out the inside of the house.
6. Use a rolling pin to flatten a piece of clay, then cut out a roof to attach to the top – use a sponge to make slip (goopy clay) on the top to help the two pieces stick together.
7. Use detail tools to carve things like roof tiles or bricks.
8. Add architectural details (e.g. chimneys, windowsills, etc.)